

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 5 APR 50

SUBJECT Recent Arrests in Slovenia Attributable to
Opposition's Pre-Election Activity

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(LISTED BELOW)

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INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. About 400 people were arrested by the Yugoslav police during the first two weeks of March 1950 in the following communities of Slovenia: Postumia, Vipava, Ajdovscina, St. Vid, Lozice, Podraga, Sv. Kriz, Vrhpolje, Budanje, Slap, Planina, Goce, Batuje, Dobravlje, Crnice, Selo, Rifenberg and Dornberg.
2. Among the arrestees, few were suspected Cominformists. The majority consisted of persons who were affiliated with, or favored participation of, opposition party candidates in the Yugoslav elections. Upon the announcement of the electoral law for the 26 March elections, they either attempted to circulate or sign petitions proposing candidates other than members of the People's Front.*
3. Since many of those arrested have been given light punishment, reprimands or from 30 to 60 days incarceration, many Slovenes in the areas are convinced that the arrests were made to serve as an object lesson to former members of opposition parties, particularly for the benefit of youths who may entertain deviationist tendencies. Also, the arrests were calculated to take these elements out of circulation during pre-election rallies, and prevent their participation in the elections on 26 March 1950.

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 Comment: Much of the misguided activity of the opposition occurred because many persons assumed that the United States had induced Tito to permit all parties to be represented in the 26 March elections as had been done in the elections held in 1945.

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